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The Ministry of Higher Education intends to complete the reorganization of technical middle schools by the summer of 1953, with emphasis on the reorganization of the industrial technical middle schools. The revisions seek to overcome the confused conditions of the schools, to increase the number of schools, to strengthen and unify the standards of school personnel, and to satisfy the national demand for technicians.

The symposium made the following points regarding the reorganization of the technical middle schools:

1. Guarantee the achievement of the key points in the reorganization plan. Gear the schools to the requirements of national construction. At present the number of technical middle schools serving heavy industry is very small and standards are still unsatisfactory. The number of industrial technical schools of the East China Administrative Area is comparatively large, but only eight are heavy industry schools. The Central-South Administrative Area has only four heavy industry schools. There are now over 40,000 students attending the national industrial technical schools, machine schools, electric machine schools, prospecting schools, metallurgy schools, coal mining schools, geological, and other scientific schools. Industrial school students alone number more than one third of the total number.

Before the reorganization there were 188 provincial and municipal industrial schools of which 101 schools were for the training of leaders for local industries. Of the total enrollment of 120,000 students, 60,000 were attending light industry schools. Too many students are attending light industry and textile schools while the demand for technicians in heavy industry cannot be met. Therefore, the local technical schools should be transferred to the industrial ministries of the central government, and some of the better established technical schools should be converted to heavy industry schools.

2. Unify and strengthen leadership. The Ministry of Higher Education must determine the educational program of the technical middle schools, their regulations, their curriculum, and student recruitment. The ministries concerned of the Central People's Government will be responsible for: establishing technical middle schools and special industrial schools, technical education plans, educational administration, supply of textbooks and equipment, recruitment of students, placement of graduates, selection of principals, school personnel, operating expenses, and other important matters.

3. Adopt specialization and simplification in establishing special vocational courses. Schools may be established by reorganizing old schools or establishing new schools. During the reorganization last year some schools failed to establish special vocational courses. This year each school must establish vocational courses. The industrial ministries of the Central People's Government must determine the types and number of cadres they require in the next 5 years. In accord with the conditions of factories, mines, and schools they must pattern their vocational courses after the Soviet technical middle schools. Outside of the few industrial schools which meet the requirements of local industries, most of these schools should come under the direct leadership of the various industrial ministries of the Central People's Government.

Special vocational schools and the special vocational subjects must be mutually related. The special vocational subjects should not be more than four or five.

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4. Standardize school regulations: Last year the Ministry of Education limited the industrial course to 3 years. This assures qualified students to meet national construction requirements. If the course were shortened to 2 years, the necessary curriculum could not be covered satisfactorily.

Elementary industrial technical schools hereafter will cease recruitment, and students already attending will remain until graduation.

5. Check the recruitment of students strictly and carefully before the spring semester opens. The shortage of teachers must be given serious attention. Each school must consider the capacity of its plant, the number of teachers, and the availability of school equipment before recruiting students. In taking steps to increase the number of teachers and provide adequate educational facilities for the spring semester, 2,000 students should be considered the maximum enrollment for each school.

6. Improve and strengthen the administrative and teaching staff in technical middle schools by selecting politically indoctrinated and professionally trained cadres to serve as principals and department heads. Because of the great shortage of teachers, the various ministries should assign some of their technicians and engineers to do part-time teaching. At the same time, supplementary teacher training courses should be organized. Superior technical middle school graduates should be used as assistant teachers.

7. First-year students of schools that have been reorganized will follow the new educational plan this year. Students who entered in 1952 will follow the new plan wherever possible.

8. Improve and provide more textbooks. Textbooks and teaching materials of the Soviet Union are being collected, but they are not complete. We must still rely primarily on translations and newly revised and compiled textbooks to meet the shortage of textbooks. We must be selective and critical in the use of present textbooks, but this does not mean casting them all aside. In the field of general education, we should continue to use those books prescribed by the Ministry of Education. In using new technical textbooks which are translated and compiled by the various industrial ministries, we should see that they are suitable for the students and teachers of each grade.

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